

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SHERMAN DIVISION

FRANK EDWIN PATE, #30430-408

VS.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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CIVIL ACTION NO. 4:19cv910
CRIMINAL ACTION NO. 4:14cr125(1)

MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER

Pro se Movant Frank Edwin Pate filed the above-styled and numbered Motion to Vacate, Set Aside, or Correct Sentence pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255. On December 23, 2019, Movant filed a motion to dismiss his case (Dkt. #19). Voluntary dismissals are governed by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a)(1)(A) that provides, in pertinent part, the movant “ may dismiss an action without a court order by filing: (i) a notice of dismissal before the opposing party serves either an answer or a motion for summary judgment.” “Unless the notice...states otherwise, the dismissal is without prejudice.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(a)(1)(B). The notice of dismissal is self-effectuating and terminates the case in and of itself; no order or other action of the District Court is required. *In re Amerijet Int’l, Inc.*, 785 F.3d 967, 973 (5th Cir. 2015) (per curiam). Thus, once a movant has moved to dismiss under Rule 41(a)(1)(A)(i), the case is effectively terminated; the Court has no power or discretion to deny his right to dismiss or to attach any condition or burden to that right. *Williams v. Ezell*, 531 F.2d 1261, 1264 (5th Cir. 1976); *In re Amerijet Int’l, Inc.*, 785 F.3d at 973; *Carter v. United States*, 547 F.2d 258, 259 (5th Cir. 1977) (party has absolute right to dismiss his legal action under Rule 41(a) prior to the filing of an answer or motion for summary judgment).

In the present case, no answer or motion for summary judgment has been filed; thus, Movant is entitled to the voluntary dismissal of the case without prejudice. Movant’s case was

dismissed the moment the notice (Dkt. #19) was filed with the Clerk. Moreover, after a notice of voluntary dismissal is filed, the district court loses jurisdiction over the case. *In re Amerijet Int'l, Inc.*, 785 F.3d at 973.

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that Movant's notice of dismissal (Dkt. #19) is self-effectuating and terminates the case in and of itself, and the case is **DISMISSED** without prejudice pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. 41(a)(1)(A)(i). All motions by any party not previously ruled upon are **DENIED**.

SIGNED this 23rd day of June, 2020.


AMOS L. MAZZANT
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE